

July 1995

**Legislative Reviews and  
Audit Oversight Issue  
Area**

**Active Assignments**

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# Foreword

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This report was prepared primarily to inform Congressional members and key staff of ongoing assignments in the General Accounting Office's Legislative Reviews and Audit Oversight issue area. This report contains assignments that were ongoing as of July 6, 1995, and presents a brief background statement and a list of key questions to be answered on each assignment. The report will be issued quarterly.

This report was compiled from information available in GAO's internal management information systems. Because the information was downloaded from computerized data bases intended for internal use, some information may appear in abbreviated form.

If you have questions or would like additional information about assignments listed, please contact David Clark, Director, on (202) 512-9489; or George Stalcup, Associate Director, on (202) 512-3406.

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## ***Legislative Reviews and Audit Oversight***

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### **LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OPERATIONS**

**TITLE: EXAMINATION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1995 (911697)**

**BACKGROUND :** The tri-annual audit of the GPO, a \$1 billion dollar federal printing activity, is required by Title 44 of the U.S. Code. GAO's last financial audit of GPO covered FY 1992. GAO found (1) the principal statements to be reliable in all material respects (2) effective internal controls, and (3) no material noncompliance with laws tested.

**KEY QUESTIONS :** Does GPO's statements fairly present its financial position & results of operations? Does GPO's internal control structure provide reasonable assurances of achieving selected internal control objectives? Did GPO comply with certain provisions of selected laws and regulations?

**TITLE: FINANCIAL AUDIT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE FOR FY 1994 (918715)**

**BACKGROUND :** The Senate Leaders asked us to audit the Secretary of the Senate. (The requesters also asked us to audit the Senate Sergeant at Arms, which we are doing under job code 918723).

**KEY QUESTIONS :** (1) Is the Secretary's Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for fiscal year 1994 reliable? (2) Are there any weaknesses in internal controls over financial reporting, safeguarding of assets, or compliance with laws and regulations? (3) Are there any instances of noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations?

**TITLE: FINANCIAL AUDIT OF THE SENATE PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO REVOLVING FUND FOR 1993 (918716)**

**BACKGROUND :** We were asked to audit the Senate Photographic Studio Revolving Fund for the periods ended 3/31/93 and 9/30/93.

**KEY QUESTIONS :** (1) Are the Senate Photographic Studio's Financial Statements reliable? (2) Are there any weaknesses in internal controls over financial reporting, safeguarding of assets, or compliance with laws and regulations? (3) Are there any instances of noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations?

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## *Legislative Reviews and Audit Oversight*

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### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OPERATIONS

**TITLE: FINANCIAL AUDIT OF SENATE RESTAURANTS REVOLVING FUND - FISCAL YEAR 1994 (918720)**

**BACKGROUND :** The Senate Restaurants provide food services to the Senators, their staff and the public through restaurant operations, cafeterias, coffee shops, vending machines, and catering services.

**KEY QUESTIONS :** (1) Are the financial statements (F/S) presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principals? (2) Are internal controls sufficient to prevent or detect losses, violations of laws and regulations, or material misstatements in the F/S? (3) Did the U.S. Senate Restaurants comply with applicable laws and regulations?

**TITLE: FINANCIAL AUDIT OF U.S. SENATE RECORDING STUDIO REVOLVING FUND FOR THE PERIODS ENDED 3/31/93 AND 9/30/93 (918721)**

**BACKGROUND :** We were asked to audit the Senate Recording Studio Revolving Fund for the periods ended 3/31/93 and 9/30/93.

**KEY QUESTIONS :** (1) Are the Senate Recording Studio's Financial Statements reliable? (2) Are there any weaknesses in internal controls over financial reporting, safeguarding of assests, or compliance with laws and regulations? (3) Are there any instances of non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations?

**TITLE: FINANCIAL AUDIT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR ENDED 9-30-94 (918722)**

**BACKGROUND :** P.L. 96-114 established the Congressional Award Board to administer the Congressional Award Program. This program promotes excellence among youths by encouraging them to participate in voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition or exploration activities.

**KEY QUESTIONS :** (1) Are the financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles? (2) Are internal controls sufficient to prevent or detect material losses or misstatements in the financial statements? (3) Did the program comply with all applicable laws and regulations?

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## ***Legislative Reviews and Audit Oversight***

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### **LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OPERATIONS**

**TITLE: FINANCIAL AUDIT OF THE SENATE SERGEANT AT ARMS (918723)**

**BACKGROUND :** The Senate Leaders asked us to audit the Senate Sergeant at Arms for fiscal year 1994. (The requesters also asked us to audit the Secretary of the Senate, which we are doing under job code 918715).

**KEY QUESTIONS :** (1) Is the Sergeant's Statement of Operations for fiscal year 1994 reliable? (2) Are there any weaknesses in internal controls over financial reporting, safeguarding of assets, or compliance with laws and regulations? (3) Are there any instances of noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations?

**TITLE: ASSISTANCE TO THE SENATE FOR FY 94 (918724)**

**BACKGROUND :** The Senate Leaders asked us to audit the Senate Sergeant at Arms and the Secretary of the Senate's receipts and expenditures (job codes 918715 and 918723). In connection with those audits, Senate staff have asked us to assist them in assessing their financial operations and to offer any suggestions we may have for improving their efficiency.

**KEY QUESTIONS :** Are there any suggestions to improve financial management in the Senate Sergeant at Arms and the Secretary of the Senate?

### **OTHER FINANCIAL AUDIT WORK**

**TITLE: STATUTORY FINANCIAL AUDIT OF INDEPENDENT COUNSELS AND OTHERS FUNDED BY DOJ'S PERMANENT INDEFINITE APPROPRIATION P.L. 100-202 AND 103-270 FOR THE PERIOD 10/1/94 - 03/31/95 (911698)**

**BACKGROUND :** GAO is required under law to audit the 6-month expenditure statements of independent counsels. This audit will cover the 6-month period ended March 31, 1995.

**KEY QUESTIONS :** (1) Are the expenditure statements reliable? (2) Are there any weaknesses in internal controls over financial reporting, safeguarding of assets, or compliance with laws and regulations? (3) Are there any instances of noncompliance with applicable laws and regulations.

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### **OTHER ISSUE AREA WORK**

**TITLE: FEDERALLY CHARTERED CORPORATIONS (911700)**

**BACKGROUND :** In accordance with procedures established on August 31, 1959, the GAO examines for the Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, audit reports of federally chartered organizations. This assignment will cover 31 reviews.

**KEY QUESTIONS :** Do the reports comply with the financial reporting requirements of the law?

**TITLE: COMMENTS ON OMB CIRCULAR A-133 EXPOSURE DRAFT (911701)**

**BACKGROUND :** OMB is proposing changes to Circular A-133 which provides guidance for implementing the single audit process with respect to non-profit entities. OMB will use the comments on the Circular as the foundation for proposing amendments to the Single Audit Act.

**KEY QUESTIONS :** Are the OMB proposals consistent with GAO recommendations to improve the single audit process?

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